

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1007

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to recognize Mary Alyce Haynes Clay on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Mary Alyce Haynes Clay is one such estimable person who served with distinction for thirty-eight years as an educator before taking a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, knowing the benefits of higher education, Mrs. Clay earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Knoxville College and her Master of Arts degree in Education from Case-Western Reserve University; she has also completed seventy-two hours of professional development training at the Tennessee Academy of School Leaders; and

WHEREAS, embarking upon her illustrious tenure in the educational systems of our Nation in September 1965, Mrs. Clay first served as a First Grade Teacher in the Cleveland Public School System in Cleveland, Ohio, and then served as an Elementary School Teacher at Fort Walton Beach Elementary School in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, from 1966 until 1969; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to Ohio in 1969, Mrs. Clay began a ten-year career in the East Cleveland Public School System; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1979, Mrs. Clay spent twenty-five years molding the lives of students in her hometown of Memphis; she contributed her talents to the schools of Memphis in numerous capacities, serving in the positions of Pre-First Grade Teacher, Primary Grade Teacher, Chapter 1 Reading Teacher, and Success for All Reading Tutor before retiring as Curriculum Coordinator at Douglass Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, for the past seventeen years, Mrs. Clay has been an educator at Douglass Elementary School where, as Curriculum Coordinator, she has been instrumental in coordinating the school's TCAP After-School Tutorial Programs and also in writing and securing

over \$1 million in State and Federal Grants for the school; some of the grants she has helped to acquire include the Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Grant, Reading Excellence Act Grant, GOALS 2000 Grant for Douglass After-School Tutoring, several Rotary Foundation Teacher Initiative grants, Memphis City Schools Alternative-to-Suspension After-School Grants, and the Velsicol Corporation Grant to Douglass School; and

WHEREAS, wholeheartedly supporting students in their literary initiatives, Mrs. Clay taught and encouraged creative writing and submitted student work for publication in *The Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans*; and

WHEREAS, a consummate professional, Mrs. Clay holds membership in the Tennessee Education Association (TEA), National Education Association (NEA), and the National Douglass Alumni Association which she serves as National Parliamentarian; she has also served as the Association Representative to the Memphis Education Association for Douglass School for over fifteen years, in addition to being a Delegate to the TEA Convention in Nashville and several NEA Conventions; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Clay's dedication to the youth of this State has been widely acclaimed, as she was the 2002 Honoree for the *Women of Excellence*, *Women of God* Honor Service through the Business and Professional Women Federation, Church of God in Christ, and has received numerous other accolades; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Mrs. Clay is a licensed missionary in the Church of God in Christ, having completed missionary training through MAAI, and she has accepted an invitation to be a part of the April 2004 Ghana, Africa Missions Team; and

WHEREAS, taking full advantage of the golden opportunities of retirement, Mrs. Clay has embarked upon yet another glorious tenure in education, as she currently serves as Professional Development Consultant to the Gethsemane Garden Child Development Center; and

WHEREAS, her myriad accomplishments aside, Mrs. Clay is most grateful for the love and companionship of her sons, Brian Thomas Clay and Quentin Thomas Clay, who have excelled in all their chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Clay exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Mary Alyce Clay demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues and students alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Mary Alyce Haynes Clay for her dedication to the youth of our State and Nation as an educator and extend to her our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.